ABSOLUTE
SUPERMAN
DC
ALL IN
15+ TEEN+
13
AARON
SANDOVAL
ARREOLA

BATMAN
&ROBIN
YEAR ONE
"Another classic Year One in DC's history."—AIPT
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THE DEFINITIVE ORIGIN OF GOTHAM'S DYNAMIC DUO.
Written by MARK WAID and CHRIS SAMNEE
Art by CHRIS SAMNEE
COMPLETE 12-ISSUE COLLECTED EDITION
AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER

SIX WEEKS AGO.
LAZARUS ROLLED ITS TANKS DOWN MAIN STREET.
PAST THE EMPTY STOREFRONTS, THE NINETY YEAR OLD FEED STORE, AND THE SMALLVILLE GUILD OF QUILTERS.
ATTACK HELICOPTERS SWARMED LIKE FLIES AT THE STATE FAIRGROUNDS, TOPPLING THE YEAR'S PRIZE BUTTER SCULPTURE OF AMELIA EARHART....
...A BELOVED KANSAS NATIVE, AND MY OWN PERSONAL IDOL SINCE I WAS FIVE.
THE KANSANS STOOD THEIR GROUND, ARMED TO THE TEETH.
LIKE THEY DID DURING THE BORDER WARS OF THE 1850S, WHEN IT WAS MISSOURI BUSHWHACKERS AND CONFEDERATE GUERRILLAS COME TO SACK THEIR TOWNS.
THEY WERE FARMERS AND THE SONS OF SALT MINERS.
THE DAUGHTERS OF FREE STATERS AND DODGE CITY GUNFIGHTERS.
"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA" WENT THEIR STATE MOTTO.

ACROSS NINE MILLION LIGHT-YEARS, ROCKETED ALONE FROM HIS EXPLODED ALIEN HOMEWORLD, HIS FLESH SIZZLING WITH THE POWER OF A ***FALLEN STAR...***

...OF COURSE HE WOULD FIND HIS WAY ***HERE,*** TO THESE SUN-DRENCHED PRAIRIES AND SUNFLOWER FIELDS.

"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA." ***"TO THE STARS THROUGH DIFFICULTIES."***

SO BEGAN THE ***BATTLE OF KANSAS.***

SOL, I NEED YOU TO USE YOUR EVERY LAST CRYSTAL TO ***FORTIFY*** SMALLVILLE.

I CAN DO THIS, BUT IT WILL MEAN DEFYING MY PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, AS INSTALLED BY YOUR PARENTS.

IT WILL MEAN LEAVING YOU WITHOUT MY PROTECTION, WHILE YOU'RE STILL **WEAKENED** AND RECOVERING FROM YOUR ORDEAL AT THE HANDS OF--

MY PARENTS ARE *DEAD*. SMALLVILLE ISN'T. NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.
OVERRIDE ALL EXISTING EL PROTOCOLS.
YOU'RE *SMALLVILLE'S* CAPE NOW. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
AS YOU WISH, KAL-EL.
PEACEMAKER ARMOR'S WEAKEST AT THE KNEES.
AIM FOR THE TAIL ROTORS ON THE CHOPPERS.
RIGHT. FOR SMALLVILLE, THEN.
FIRST THING LAZARUS DID WAS BLOW UP THE PHONE TOWERS AND JAM THE INTERNET.
BY THE TIME THE PEACEMAKERS PARACHUTED ONTO THE JAYHAWKER COMMUNITY BASEBALL FIELD, BLOCKADES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED ON EVERY HIGHWAY AND HIKING TRAIL IN AND OUT OF TOWN.

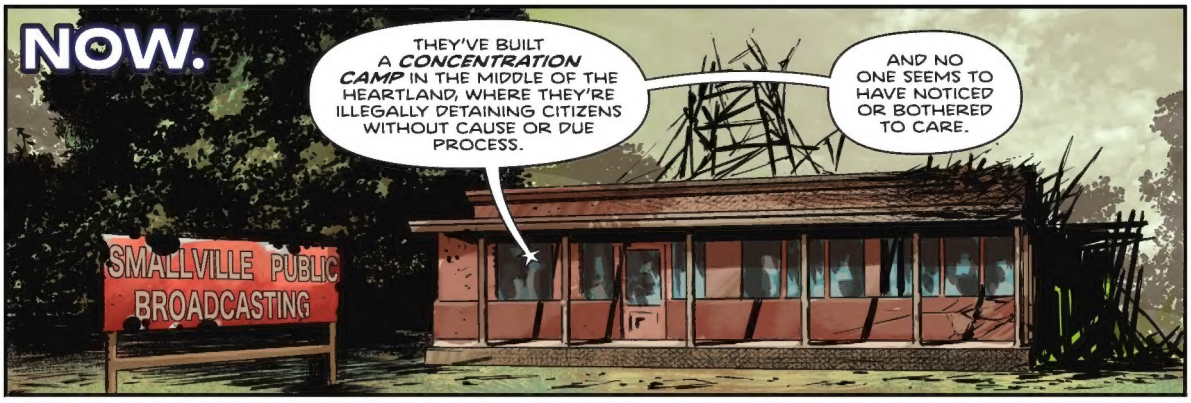
THE PRAIRIE WOULD SOON BE *MINED* FOR MILES IN EVERY DIRECTION, THE ARKANSAS RIVER PATROLLED BY REAPER DRONES.
WELCOME TO SMALLVILLE
(AND AROUND HERE, THAT'S THE AR-*KAN*-ZES, NOT THE *AR*-KEN-SAW. THEY'RE PRETTY *INSISTENT* ON THAT.)

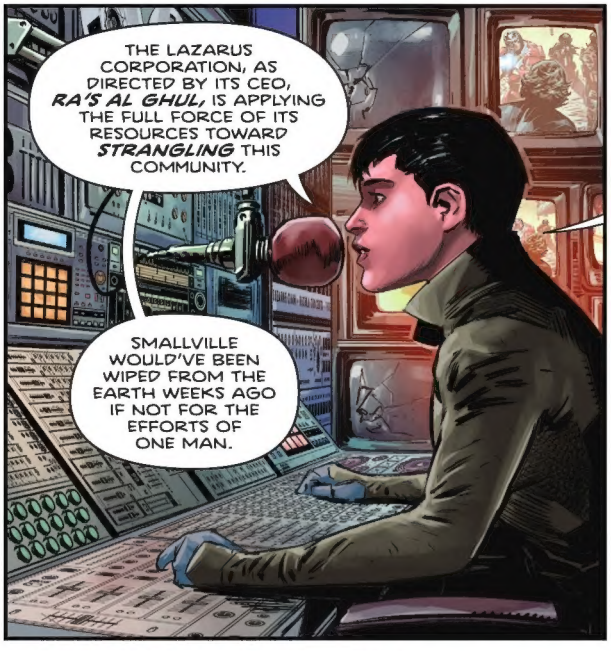
CORNFIELDS, CATTLE RANCHES, AND THE CROP DUSTERS AT THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT WERE *CARPET-BOMBED* INTO OBLIVION BY LAZARUS FIGHTER JETS.

BY MIDDAY, POWER HAD BEEN CUT TO ALL OF SMALLVILLE AND ITS SURROUNDING FARMS.
SMALLVILLE SENIOR LIVING
THIS WAS MORE THAN JUST A BATTLE.

THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL CORPORATION, WITH A MARKET CAP OF FOUR TRILLION DOLLARS, WAS LAYING *SIEGE* TO A RURAL COMMUNITY OF BARELY TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE.

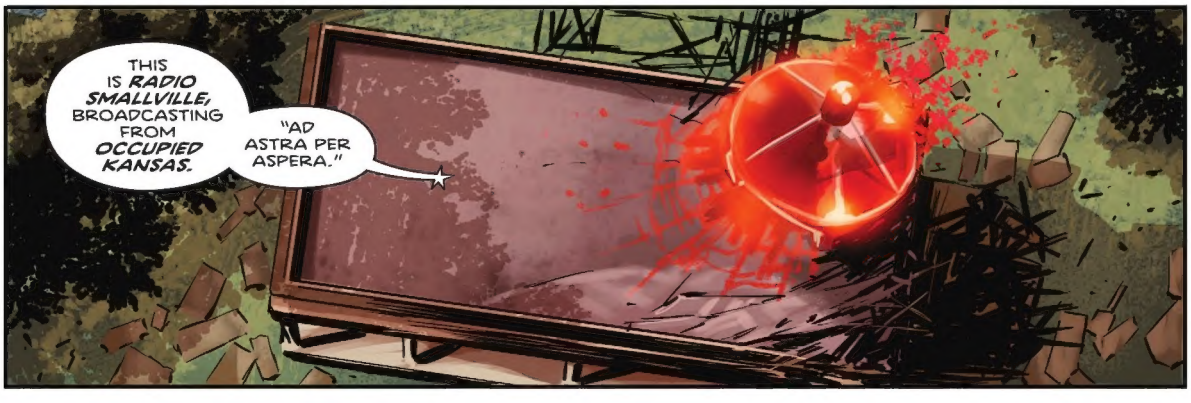
THIS WAS WAR.
AND IT HAD ONLY BEGUN.


NOW.
THEY'VE BUILT A CONCENTRATION CAMP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HEARTLAND, WHERE THEY'RE ILLEGALLY DETAINING CITIZENS WITHOUT CAUSE OR DUE PROCESS.
AND NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED OR BOTHERED TO CARE.
SMALLVILLE PUBLIC BROADCASTING


THE LAZARUS CORPORATION, AS DIRECTED BY ITS CEO, RA'S AL GHUL, IS APPLYING THE FULL FORCE OF ITS RESOURCES TOWARD STRANGLING THIS COMMUNITY.
SMALLVILLE WOULD'VE BEEN WIPED FROM THE EARTH WEEKS AGO IF NOT FOR THE EFFORTS OF ONE MAN.

THEY CALL HIM SUPERMAN. THE THINGS HE CAN DO ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE UNLESS YOU'VE SEEN THEM.
WE HAVE.
EVERY WORD OF THIS PACKET IS TRUE AND VERIFIABLE. THESE ARE REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE WORLD'S MOST VOLATILE WAR ZONE, RIGHT HERE IN THE SUNFLOWER STATE.

ALERT--LAZARUS HAS DETECTED OUR SIGNAL. FORCES APPROACHING.
TIME TO GO, MS. LANE!
IF ANYONE CAN HEAR US, WE NEED YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.


THIS IS RADIO SMALLVILLE, BROADCASTING FROM OCCUPIED KANSAS.
"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA."

CUTTING IT CLOSE, PEOPLE! HERE THEY COME!
KRRRASH
PEACEMECHS! SOL, CAN YOU KEEP THEM OFF OUR BACKS?!
NOT WITHOUT DIVERTING VITAL RESOURCES FROM ELSEWHERE.
I SUGGEST YOU RIDE FASTER.
I HAVE TEMPORARILY OPENED A PASSAGEWAY, BUT KNOW THAT I MUST DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE TUNNELS.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO US...
...DON'T YOU LET THOSE BASTARDS INSIDE, SOL!
JIMMY ASKED ME THE OTHER DAY... WHEN DID I KNOW?

THE OTHER DAY.
BEFORE THIS, MS. LANE, WOULD YOU BELIEVE...I WAS THE WORLD'S *WORST* PHOTOGRAPHER.
MY OWN MOM USED TO CALL ME *JIMMY THREE-THUMBS.*
FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I EVER TOOK A DECENT PHOTO...WAS THE NIGHT... THE NIGHT I...
RIGHT, YEAH, GREAT. LOOK, OLSEN, I GOT A STORY HERE TO WRITE.
AL GHUL IS MOVING TO PHASE THREE OF HIS *OCCUPATION HANDBOOK.* I SHOULD KNOW. I ACED THAT COURSE IN LAZARUS ACADEMY.
HOW MANY *K'S* IN "DESPOTIC OLIGARCH"?
NOT A ONE.
MS. LANE...WHEN YOU WERE AN AGENT OF LAZARUS...WHEN DID YOU FIRST KNOW...
WHEN DID YOU REALIZE YOU WERE ON THE *WRONG SIDE?*
EXACT SAME MOMENT *YOU* DID, I'M GUESSING.

JIMMY OLSEN AND I COME FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, FROM OPPOSITE ENDS OF EVERY CONCEIVABLE SPECTRUM--ME WITH LAZARUS, HIM WITH THE OMEGA MEN.
NOW.
BUT THE ONE THING WE HAVE IN COMMON...IS THAT WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS GNAWING SENSE...
...THAT SOMETHING WAS *WRONG.*
THAT *EVERYTHING* WAS WRONG.
GAAGH!
LANA! KEEP GOING, JIMMY!
YOU KEEP GOING!
FOR YEARS IT WAS LIKE AN ITCH WE COULDN'T SCRATCH.
THIS FEELING THAT SOMEONE HAD TAKEN THE GAME BOARD OF OUR LIVES AND SHAKEN IT LIKE A MADMAN...
...UNTIL ALL THE PIECES WENT SKITTERING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.
I AM AFRAID I MUST SEAL THE TUNNEL.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, SOL?! *DO IT!*
THERE WERE PLENTY OF TIMES WE THOUGHT WE WERE CRAZY.
MOMENTS OF DESPAIR WHEN WE FIGURED WE'D ALWAYS BE LOST AND MISERABLE, ALWAYS SEARCHING. WHEN WE WONDERED IF WE EVEN WANTED TO GO ON.
AND THEN ONE DAY, OUT OF THE BLUE...EVERYTHING CHANGED.

THE DAY I MET SUPERMAN.
THAT'S WHEN I KNEW.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE FIRST CLUE WHO HE WAS OR WHERE HE WAS FROM. BUT SOMEHOW I COULD TELL...
...IF THERE WAS ONE RIGHT SIDE IN THIS LEAKY, SLOSHING @#$&-BUCKET OF A WORLD...
...IT WAS HIS.
AND I DAMN SURE HAD TO BE ON IT.

FIVE WEEKS AGO.

WE'RE HALF A MILE DOWN, BELOW THE OLD SALT MINES, DEEPER THAN LAZARUS MUNITIONS CAN REACH.

I DUG THE TUNNELS MYSELF. ADDED SOME WELLS. AND RIGGED LIMITED ELECTRICITY, SOLAR-POWERED.

SOL, MY...MY ***GUARDIAN,*** A BEING MADE OF LIVING ***SUNSTONE CRYSTALS,*** WILL SERVE AS FORTIFICATION AND SECURITY.

I KNOW MINES. FROM MY TIME ON ***KRYPTON,*** THE PLANET WHERE...

WELL, IT USED TO BE A PLANET... BEFORE IT...

YOU'LL...BE SAFE HERE. I PROMISE.

THANK YOU, SUPERMAN.

WHAT DID HE SAY? I COULDN'T HEAR A WORD OF THAT.

THEY STARE AT ME LIKE I HAVE THREE HEADS. LIKE I'M MUTTERING GIBBERISH, WHEN I SPEAK MORE OF THEIR LANGUAGES THAN THEY DO.

I HAVE TO GO. SORRY, EXCUSE ME.

I'VE WALKED THIS PLANET IN A WAY NO HUMAN EVER HAS. BUT I'LL NEVER BE ONE OF THEM.

KAL-EL, WAIT...

LOIS LANE IS DIFFERENT. SCARIER. THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT ME...FROM HER, I CAN'T SEEM TO HIDE.

LAZARUS IS AT THE TREATMENT PLANT, ATTEMPTING TO POISON SMALLVILLE'S WATER.

I HAVE TO GET TO ***WORK,*** LOIS.

WE ***BOTH*** DO. THE WORLD HAS TO BE TOLD WHAT'S ***HAPPENING*** HERE. JIMMY AND I ARE WORKING TO DO THAT.

BUT PART OF THAT STORY... WILL HAVE TO BE ABOUT ***YOU.***

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE ***SHADOWS*** FOR YEARS NOW. AFTER THIS...THERE'LL BE NO MORE HIDING. I NEED TO KNOW YOU'RE ***READY*** FOR THAT.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO SHOW THE WORLD ***WHO YOU ARE?***

WHAT IF...

...I DON'T KNOW WHO I...

SUPERMAN? AH, SORRY TO INTERRUPT. BUT I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU.

MY NAME IS JED COCHRAN. I WAS THE MAIL CARRIER FOR...FOR THE ***KENTS.*** WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE. I WAS...

WELL, THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS.

I WAS THE ONE WHO REPORTED YOU TO LAZARUS.

I BELIEVED WHAT LAZARUS TOLD US, THAT THERE WERE ENEMIES AMONG US. I THOUGHT I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING. THAT I WAS PROTECTING MY COMMUNITY.
BUT NOW, HERE WE ARE, HERE YOU ARE, AND...
MY FAMILY WOULD BE DEAD IF IT WASN'T FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE, SUPERMAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, OTHER THAN...I WAS WRONG. I'M SORRY.
AND THANK YOU.
KAL?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO FORGIVE ME. I JUST NEEDED TO SAY MY PIECE.
TEAR HIS ARM OFF. MELT THE SKIN FROM HIS BONES. HURL HIM INTO THE SUN.
YOU HAVE A SHARP EYE, JED. WE NEED THAT. WE COULD USE YOU ON GUARD DUTY.
DON'T CRUSH HIS HAND. DON'T CRUSH HIS HAND.
THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL YOUR FAMILY NOW. HELP ME PROTECT THEM.
I WILL, SUPERMAN.
THIS ISN'T MY HOME. I HAVE NO HOME. I FIGHT FOR STRANGERS WHO FEAR ME.
TELL PEOPLE WHATEVER YOU WANT, LOIS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I AM NOTHING AND NO ONE.

I'M ONLY HERE TO BLEED.
YOU SAID WE HAD A PLAN TO NEUTRALIZE THAT CAPE OF HIS. IT DOESN'T LOOK VERY NEUTRALIZED TO ME.
PATIENCE, DAUGHTER. ALL WILL BE READY SOON.
WHERE'S BRAINIAC? WE NEED MORE OF HIS KRYPTONITE IF WE'RE GOING TO BRING THE ALIEN TO HIS KNEES.
BRAINIAC IS OTHERWISE OCCUPIED. AND I HAVE MY OWN PLANS FOR THE REMAINING KRYPTONITE.
WE'LL HAVE TO EMPLOY OTHER MEANS OF STRENGTHENING OUR ARMY.
YOU MEAN...
YES, TALIA. FETCH YOUR GOD BOX.
"IT'S TIME TO LET THE HAND OF THE OMEGA GUIDE THE WAY."

KRRROOOM
NNNGH!
NOW.
MECHS KEEP GETTING STRONGER. INFUSED WITH THE POWER OF TALIA'S MYSTERIOUS FATHER BOX.
BEHIND EVERY PUNCH IS A GROWLING WHISPER THAT SCORCHES MY EARS.
LAZARUS HAS BEEN SEEDING STORM CLOUDS FOR WEEKS, SMOTHERING THE SUN.
ITS FORCES RAID SMALLVILLE IN WAVES, AT ALL HOURS.
LAZARUS DOES NOT SLEEP.
SO NEITHER DO I.

KAA-KOOOOM
GAGGGGH! I'M BURNING UP! HELP, GET ME OUT!
THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THESE TUNNELS! ELDERLY! PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS!
AND YOU'RE DROPPING BOMBS ON THEIR HEADS!
THE ROSS FAMILY'S PIG FARM IS THREE MILES THAT WAY.
WHEN I COME BY THERE IN AN HOUR, I'D BETTER SEE YOU SITTING IN THE SLOP, THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
GO!

EYES FEEL LIKE GAPING WOUNDS. LUNGS FULL OF RAZOR BLADES.
NEED TO LEAP ABOVE THE CLOUDS, BASK IN THE SUNLIGHT.
BUT THERE ARE HOUSES BURNING ON LANGMORE ROAD. WARSHIPS ON THE ARKANSAS. NEED TO MOVE THE ROBINSONS' COWS TO A SAFER PASTURE.
YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP.
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED. ANYONE CAN SEE THAT.
YOU'RE PROTECTING AN ENTIRE TOWN, DAY AND NIGHT.
EVEN A SUPERMAN HAS HIS LIMITS.
HAS ANYONE HEARD THEM YET, LOIS? YOUR BROADCASTS, YOUR STORIES?
IS ANYONE COMING?
I DON'T KNOW. NO, I GUESS. NOT YET.
THEN WE'LL BOTH KEEP DOING WHAT WE HAVE TO DO, WON'T WE?
THE WORLD WILL KNOW ABOUT SMALLVILLE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
THEY'LL KNOW ABOUT YOU.
IT'S YOUR STORY THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING. I BELIEVE THAT. I KNOW IT.
BECAUSE... IT CHANGED--

KAL...SOMETHING IS... WRONG...WITH ME
KERR-KRRRAKK
SOL!
SOL, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I HAVE BEEN... INFILTRATED. I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED.
I AM SO SORRY.
SOL!
SOL IS GONE, SUPERMAN.
NO.
NO MORE WILL YOU HAVE HIM WHINING IN YOUR EAR, HOLDING YOU BACK. YOU'RE FREE NOW.
THANKS TO BRAINIAC.
THANKS TO BRAINIAC.
THANKS TO BRAINIAC.
THANKS TO BRAINIAC.
THANKS TO BRAINIAC.
THANKS TO BRAINIAC.
THANKS TO BRAINIAC.

WHAT THE HELL? IS THAT...
WE HAVE TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF THE TUNNELS! NOW!
OH NO, I THINK NOT, MS. LANE.
GET BACK! I'LL SMASH IT TO PIECES!
SOL, I'M SORRY FOR--
THIS WORLD WILL NEVER TRUST ME. I'LL ALWAYS BE AN "OTHER" TO THESE PEOPLE. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I TELL THEM.
UUGH!
IF HE WOULD JUST TELL US WHO HE IS, STOP HIDING...PEOPLE WOULD BE AMAZED.
KAL-EL!
THEY'D SEE HIM FOR THE HERO HE IS.

I'VE TOLD THEM TOO MUCH. SHOULD NEVER HAVE MENTIONED KRYPTON.
SHOULD'VE STAYED HIDDEN. SMALLVILLE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE I WAS CARELESS.
BECAUSE I SHOWED THE WORLD SOMETHING I CARED ABOUT.
NEVER DO THAT AGAIN.
WHAT DOES HE CARE ABOUT? WHO IS HE? DOES HE EVEN KNOW? HOW DO I HELP HIM TO KNOW?
NEVER AGAIN.
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
THIS WORLD NEEDS A SUPERMAN. MORE THAN ANYTHING.
BUT THAT ISN'T ME.
THAT ISN'T ME.
OUR GAMES ARE AT AN END, BOY.
THE FINAL JUDGEMENT HAS COME.
BEFORE THIS DAY IS THROUGH, MARK MY WORDS...

...YOU WILL KNEEL BEFORE RA'S AL GHUL...
...IN THE BLOOD OF THOSE YOU LOVE...
...AND BEG TO BE MY SON.
NEXT:
SUPERMAN vs. RA'S AL GHUL!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

JASON AARON *WRITER*
RAFA SANDOVAL *ARTIST*
ULISES ARREOLA *COLORIST*
BECCA CAREY *LETTERER*

RAFA SANDOVAL & ULISES ARREOLA *COVER*

BENGAL, DAVID TALASKI, MIKEL JANÍN
VARIANT COVERS

THE BATTLE OF KANSAS

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

PART TWO
THE FREE STATE OF SMALLVILLE

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

DEEP SPACE NOW
Never imagined my future would look like this.
BATMAN STATIC BEYOND
#1 PREVIEW
WRITER EVAN NARCISSE
ARTIST NIKOLAS DRAPER-IVEY
COLORIST WIL QUINTANA
LETTERER WES ABBOTT
20 years ago, I was plain ol' Virgil Hawkins, studying for AP physics and scraping together cash for a new gaming monitor.
Then I got my powers at the Big Bang protest and everything changed.
Today, Earth's on the brink of being accepted into an intergalactic alliance called the Cooperative, thanks to me and a bunch of other people.
Access to their technology and aggregate knowledge might save the planet from this slow death it's dying.
All I have to do is push myself further than I ever have...and hope things don't blow up in my face.
Haven't done anything on this scale before but I have to try!
Too much on the line!
"JAVELIN TO STATIC. YOU OKAY IN THERE?"

THE MILKY WAY, SOL SYSTEM, EARTH SPACE, 93 MINUTES AGO
ICON
YEAH, I'M GOOD, WARHAWK.
SUPERMAN
BATMAN'S LOOKING A LITTLE GREEN, THOUGH...
JOKES AREN'T :ERPE HELPING, STATIC... :UNGHE...
HASN'T BATMAN DONE ZERO-G BEFORE? WILL HIS SUIT STILL WORK IF HE THROWS UP IN IT?
NAUSEA, BAH! ALL NAUSEA WAS FLENSED AWAY FROM ME UNDER GRANNY GOODNESS'S CARE!
BIG BARDA
FLASH
WARHAWK
MICRON
TOO BAD I COULDN'T RIDE WITH STATIC. GOTTA BE SOME COOL TECH IN THAT BABY OUT THERE.
STILL DON'T GET WHY THEY DIDN'T JUST RIDE IN THE JAVELIN WITH US.
WELL, I HELPED DEVELOP THE SHOCKWAVE, WITH FUNDING FROM BRUCE WAYNE.
AND THE OLD MAN BASICALLY ORDERED ME TO COME ON THIS FLIGHT.
MAKES SENSE FOR US BOTH TO BE ON BOARD FOR THE BETA TEST.

"ALL SYSTEMS OPTIMAL.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, LET ME GET STARTED.
"WE'LL WARP-JUMP ONCE THE BIG GUYS CLEAR A PATH THROUGH THE TAURIDS."
SUPER-HEARING'S PICKING UP SOME NERVOUS TREMORS IN STATIC'S VOICE.
I'VE KNOWN VIRGIL SINCE HE WAS AN ADOLESCENT. HE WILL SEE THIS THROUGH, NERVOUS OR NOT.
COOPERATIVE DATA TRANSMISSION INITIATED...
STILL, HIS CONCERNS ARE UNDERSTANDABLE. THE COOPERATIVE'S INTERPLANETARY ALLIANCE IS WATCHING.
IF THE CRAFT PERFORMS AS EXPECTED, EARTH WILL BE ACCEPTED INTO THE COOPERATIVE.
STILL, I DON'T LIKE IT THAT THE COOPERATIVE'S MAKING EARTH AUDITION LIKE THIS, ICON...
THEY REQUIRE THAT ALL MEMBER PLANETS EXHIBIT SUPERLUMINAL CAPABILITY.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE.

"NOT SO. I MAY BE FROM A COOPERATIVE PLANET BUT I'VE MADE EARTH MY ADOPTED HOME JUST AS YOU HAVE.
"YEARS AGO, STATIC ASKED ME IF I WOULD STAY ON EARTH OR RETURN TO MY HOMEWORLD.
"IT'S CALLED TERMINUS BECAUSE THEY ACHIEVED THE PINNACLE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.
ON HEARING THAT, STATIC WONDERED IF MY TIME ON EARTH MADE ME FEEL MORE ALIVE TO MYSELF THAN MY HOME PLANET.
I'VE HAD TO ADMIT THAT HE IS RIGHT. HELPING A SOCIETY COME TO MATURITY IS A JOY I DIDN'T KNOW I NEEDED.
WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN. RETURN TO THE SHOCKWAVE. JAVELIN, SYNCHRONIZE WARP ON MY MARK.
STEADY...
...NOOOOOWWWW!
TO BE CONTINUED IN
BATMAN STATIC BEYOND #1
ON SALE IN NOVEMBER!

ENTER KING GHIDORAH AND RODAN!

JUSTICE LEAGUE vs. GODZILLA vs. KONG 2 #5

LEGENDARY COMICS

MONSTERVERSE

WRITTEN BY BRIAN BUCCELLATO

ART BY CHRISTIAN DUCE

DC

NOVEMBER

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN STATIC BEYOND

INTERVIEW WITH EVAN NARCISSE

The future just got a shock to its system! Writer Evan Narcisse and artist Nikolas Draper-Ivey team for *Batman/Static: Beyond*, a bold new series that brings together two of DC's most electrifying heroes—Batman Beyond and Static—for a high-stakes adventure across Neo-Gotham and Dakota City. From new villains to dynamic team-ups, Narcisse shares what makes this story a must-read for longtime fans.

What was the spark that brought Static and Batman Beyond together for this story?

Batman/Static: Beyond serves as a bit of a spiritual sequel to "Static Beyond," a short story Nikolas Draper-Ivey wrote and illustrated for the *Milestone 30th Anniversary Special*. The enthusiastic response to Nik's story led to the opportunity to do more with them in a follow-up project.

This series happens in a universe where Static and Batman are both members of the Justice League. Issue #1 opens with a mission that has massive implications for Earth's standing in the intergalactic political ecosystem, as a technological innovation Static helped develop gets deployed for the first time. Static's got high hopes for the mission and what it could mean for the planet, but Batman's just trying to not get space-sick in zero gravity.

What makes Terry and Virgil such a compelling duo to write?

Oh man, they're just such polar opposites in almost every way. They're literally light and dark. Static's the crackling charge that lights the way out of darkness, and Batman is an avatar of shadow incarnate, everything you should be scared of if you've hurt someone. They have different foundational experiences, divergent philosophies, and extremely contrasting methodologies. So of course, there's going to be lots of juicy tension!

How will the story's antagonists challenge Static and Batman Beyond in ways fans haven't seen before?

Our story's title is "Shadow War," and it's going to take both our protagonists to really dark places. Virgil's always been a deeply optimistic character, and the crisis that unfolds is going to test him physically and mentally. How does someone like him complete a metaphorical electrical circuit when nonconductive barriers stand in his way? Meanwhile, Terry's going to learn that his confidence was built, in part, on the tools of the trade that he inherited. The big question for him is whether he can still be the Dark Knight when those tools get neutralized.

Both Nikolas Draper-Ivey and Miguel Mendonça are on art for this series. What can readers look forward to in how they're bringing this story to life?

Readers are going to be in for a treat when they see the variation of styles and approaches Nik and Miguel bring to the table. Nik's intense, moody style and cinematic page design set up the stakes of the story incredibly well, and you can feel all this sci-fi dynamism in Miguel's art. These two artists tap into the contrasts of our main characters so perfectly.

Without spoiling too much, is there a moment or reveal that you're especially excited for fans to see?

There are some deep cuts from the Milestone superhero universe I can't wait for folks to experience and a badass moment where Static demonstrates what happens when you're a nerd who's studied your own powers for years. But there's also a quieter scene where Virgil talks about Terry's Bat-identity crisis that I'm very proud of.

Batman/Static: Beyond #1 main cover
by Nikolas Draper-Ivey

Batman/Static: Beyond #1 variant cover
by Dustin Nguyen

Batman/Static: Beyond #1 variant cover
by Rahzzah

Batman/Static: Beyond #1 variant cover
by Denys Cowan

DON'T MISS *BATMAN/STATIC: BEYOND*, ON SALE MONTHLY!

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